

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, SW, FN
SUBJECT: FINNISH SAAB TO MANUFACTURE CHRYSLER

1. SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS AUGUST 16 SAAB-VALMET IN FINLAND
WILL PRODUCE TWO CHRYSLER MODELS NEXT YEAR, THE 1307 AND THE 1508.
AN AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFECT HAS BEEN MADE WITH CHRYSLER INTERNATIONAL
IN FRANCE. SO FAR IT IS NOT KNOWN EXACTLY WHAT THE YEARLY PRODUCTION
WILL BE BUT SAAB-VALMET IS COUNTING ON SEVERAL HUNDRED NEW PLACES
OF WORK. EVEN FINNISH SUB-CONTRACTORL WILL TAKE PART IN PRODUCTION.

2. AROUND 1,000 CARS WILL BE ASSEMBLED IN NYSTAD WHEN PRODUCTION
BEGINS. THE PRODUCTION OF OTHER SAAB MODELS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.
IT IS EXPECTED THAT AROUND 26,000 VEHICLES WILL BE PRODUCED YEARLY.
HALF OF SAABS' PASSENGER CARS ARE EXPORTED, PRINCIPALLY TO THE
NORDIC COUNTRIES.

3. IN THE PRODUCTION OF SAAB ABOUT 80 FINNISH SUB-CONTRACTORS
MAKE 800 PARTS. THE SAME SYSTEM WILL BE USED FOR THE
PRODUCTION OF THE NEW "FINNISH" CHRYSLER. THE FINNISH
MARKET WILL BE INVESTIGATED BEFORE THE TOTAL VOLUME OF
PRODUCTION IS DECIDED.

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4. THE NEW AGREEMENT HAS AROUSED GREAT INTEREST FROM
SAAB IN SWEDEN. SAAB-SCANIA'S HEAD OF CENTRAL PLANNING
BENGT ODMAN VISITED NYSTAD TUESDAY (AUGUST 15).
IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE EXPERIENCES OF DEVELOPING
CHRYSLER PRODUCTION IN FINLAND WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR
THE PRODUCTION OF SAAB AS A WHOLE.

5. SAAB-VALMET HAS 1450 EMPLOYEES IN NYSTAD BUT HAS HAD EMPLOYMENT DIFFICULTIES AND BEEN FORCED TO LAY OFF SEVERAL WORKERS. THANKS TO THE NEW AGREEMENT THEY CAN NOW INCREASE THEIR WORK FORCE AND ALSO CREATE NEW JOBS FOR SUB-CONTRACTORS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF FINLAND.

6. WE DO NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION OF ABOVE PRESS REPORTS, BUT BELIEVE THEY ARE OF INTEREST, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN AUTO FIELD (E.G. VOLVO/NORWAY DEAL).

KENNEDY-MINOTT

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